

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 10, 2002

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OK to Receive Greater Share of Highway Funds

Washington, DC -- The emergency spending bill expected to pass the U.S. House Appropriations Committee next Tuesday will contain language translating into over \$64 million in additional highway funds for Oklahoma next year.

The language included in the FY 2002 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations will ensure that Oklahoma will receive \$64,380,797 more next year than it would have received under the President's FY 2003 budget request. Upon passage of the \$29-billion spending measure, Oklahoma's share of federal highway spending for FY 2003 will now total \$382,629,319.

"Several years ago, all of us in the Oklahoma delegation worked hard to change our old 'donor state' status, so that more of the taxes we pay at the pump now return to Oklahoma," said Istook. **"That's already helped put hundreds of millions of dollars into Oklahoma's roads. This builds on and strengthens that effort."**

The \$29-billion emergency spending bill primarily contains funds for increased defense and homeland security. The bill is still in committee, but no further highway amendments are in order, so the language is secure. The U.S. House is expected to take up the measure in the coming weeks.